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RANUNCULUS GLACIALIS L. IN RODNEI MOUNTAINS – REDISCOVERED AFTER A CENTURY

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Abstract: This floristic note reports a recent find of population of *Ranunculus glacialis* L. in Munții Rodnei, from where it was first reported to Romania in 1858 and has probably not been observed during the 20th century. This find confirms the present occurrence of this interesting arctic-alpine species in the Eastern Carpathians.

The high alpine *Ranunculus glacialis* L. belongs to the rarest elements in the flora of Romania. Its general distribution comprises arctic and alpine regions of Europe. In the Carpathians it occurs fairly often only in the alpine and subnival belts of the Tatra Mts. in Western Carpathians [3]. Apart from this area, it has been reported from two massifs in the Romanian Carpathians: Rodnei Mountains (Eastern Carpathians) and Făgărașului Mountains (Southern Carpathians). Most of these Romanian localities were recorded in 19th century [eg. 1, 8] and subsequently cited in the synthetic work by Nyárády [2]. The species was observed more recently in Făgărașului Mountains, from where it was cited in published phytosociological relevés [cf. 5, 6], yet no specific site of occurrence was cited in these papers.

In Rodnei Mountains, *Ranunculus glacialis* was reported from two sites, namely: (i) Vf. Ineul [=Kuhhorn] – herbarium material in CL (Cretz G., 1858, no. 40131 and Porcius F., no. 40130) and literature data [eg. 1, 4], and (ii) Vf. Corongiș [=Korondsys] – no herbarium voucher found, literature data: Schur 1866 [8]. Most probably, this species has not been observed there in 20th century (G. Coldea, pers. comm.). Also Rațiu [7] does not cite any recent confirmed data in a chorological analysis of alpine buttercups of Romania.

During botanical excursion to Rodnei Mts. on 18–20 August 2004, I checked two stations of *Ranunculus glacialis* reported in the old literature and cited in the 2nd volume of *Flora Republicii Populare Române* [2].

1. Ineul Peak On 19.08.2004 one population was found on western slopes of the mountain, in steep rocks, at the altitude approx. 2220 m a.s.l. The population observed is limited to one steep rocky slope patch of approx. 15–20 m². In that place the species is abundant; plants grow individually or in tight groups. More than half of the individuals were not flowering, but several flowering/fruited specimens were also observed. Herbarium specimens have been deposited in the herbaria KRAM (Institute of Botany, Polish Academy of Sciences, Kraków) and CL (University of Cluj-Napoca).

2. Corongiș Peak Despite meticulous search, it was not possible to confirm persistence of the species in the second site. Taking into account scarcity of potentially suitable habitats it can be supposed that this population does not exist there any more.

The find from Ineul Peak confirms that a small but stable population of *Ranunculus glacialis* does exist in Rodnei Mountains and, therefore, Eastern Carpathians.

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RANUNCULUS GLACIALIS L. ÎN MUNȚII RODNEI – REDESCOPERIT DUPĂ UN SECOL

(Rezumat)

Lucrarea prezintă redescoperirea recentă (în august 2004) a populației de *Ranunculus glacialis* L. din Munții Rodnei, loc în care a fost menționată pentru flora României în 1858. De-a lungul secolului XX, specia probabil nu a mai fost observată în acest loc. Se reconfirmă astfel prezența acestei interesante plante arcto-alpine în Carpații Orientali.